(b) A request was received from Justices Thakkar-NTatarajan Commission of Inquiry seeking extension for a period of 3 montis with effect from «th July, 1987 for completing the inquiry and submittir g its report. After examining the req iest, the term of the Hon'ble Commission was extended upto 5th Octoh r 1987.

Prime Minister's interview to India Today on] ofors Issue

3244. SHRI JASW ANT SINGH:
SHRI A. C KULKARNI:

Will the Ministei of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that in the interview to India 7 id ly on 30th June, amongst other thi igs, the Prime Minister had statec, "that does not mean that we are not acting on the hard facts that we have";

(b) if so, what .' re the hard facts that *ne Prime Mir ister has in his possession in respe t of the Bofors deal; and

(c) since when lie has had them and what action as so far been taken upon them?

THE MINISTEI OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The hard facts consist of the material contained in the Report of the Swedi: h National Audit Bureau as comr uunieated to the Govt, of India on 4th Jun*. 1987. Consequent thereto, fuller information was sought both rom the Swedish Govt. and M/s. Bofors. Besides, Govt, decided to rec uest the Presiding Officers of both the Houses of Parliament to establisi a Joint Parliamentary Committee. Parliament has since approved a IV otion to establish a Joint Parliaments: y CommHtee. Investigations against Shri Win Chadda and some of the associates were also initiated'.

Prime Minister's interview regarding Swedish National Audit Bureau

2245. SHRI JASWANT SINGH: SHRI A. G. KULKARNI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister gave inter^ew to INDIA TODAY which was crried in its issue of 30 June, 1987,

(b) whether it is also a fact that in the interview the Prime Minister has stated that Government's stand has been vindicated by the findings of the Swedish National Audit Bureau; and

(c) if so, in which specific respect?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Prime Minister's observations speak for themselves and require no further elucidation

Arrest of officials of Gun and Shell Factory, Cossipore

2246. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some senior officials of Cossipore Gun and Shell Factory and an American business reoresenta-tive, whose firm supplies items to the defence production unit, wer» arrested on the 12th June, 1987 fr m the Inspection Bangalow of Cossipore Club and were detained on the 13th June, 1987;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether a departmental inquiry has been ordered;

(d) if so, what is the nature of inquiry; and

(e) whether any other a'epg have been taken in the matt»?